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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is the intent of the members of the Illinois Senate to recognize and honor those distinguished officers and citizens who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care of the citizens of their communities and this State; and

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WHEREAS, There is a need to show law enforcement and other first responders that our citizens recognize and honor the difficult job they do in public service for all of us; and

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WHEREAS, Firefighters and police officers dedicate and risk their lives in the protection of life and property to ensure that their communities are as safe as possible and are deserving of thanks for their contributions to our criminal justice system and our public safety; and

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WHEREAS, Firefighters, police officers, and first responders not only are often valued, trusted, and upstanding members of our communities, but are also brothers, fathers, sisters, mothers, and siblings; and

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WHEREAS, The National Fire Protection Association estimates that there are currently 1,140,750 local firefighters in the United States, of whom 354,600 are career

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1 firefighters and 786,150 are volunteer firefighters; and

2 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates there
3 are 461,000 sworn local police officers in the United States;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly 60,000 assaults against law enforcement
6 officers are reported each year, resulting in approximately
7 16,000 injuries; over 30 firefighters have also been killed in
8 the line of duty in 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, In Illinois, there are 877 law enforcement
10 agencies employing 41,277 sworn police officers and 1,126 fire
11 departments employing 18,421 firefighters; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed the
13 calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Peace Officer
14 Memorial Week to pay special recognition to those law
15 enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of
16 duty for the safety and protection of others; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate May 14,
19 2015 as Police, Firefighter, and First Responder Appreciation
20 Day in the State of Illinois and urge all Illinoisans to
21 recognize and honor those whose unwavering commitment to public

1 safety has earned them our great esteem and admiration.